

December 2014 Issue



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness would like to thank our 2014 “partners in preparedness,” which includes many federal, state, county, and city government agencies, businesses, faith-based organizations, community and neighborhood watch groups, schools, CERT graduates, and our Reserves. We look forward to working with you in 2015.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Last Minute Stocking Stuffers!

Ho! Ho! Ho! The holiday season is upon us! It's not too late to pick up some special gifts and stocking stuffers for those you care most about – your family, friends, and co-workers. A preparedness gift is an inexpensive but meaningful way to show you care. Some gift suggestions from the Shelby County Office of Preparedness include: flashlight or lantern with batteries, ABC fire extinguisher, smoke or carbon monoxide detector, fire escape ladder, first-aid kit, portable toilet, water-proof matches, water filter straw, ice scraper, a set of family radios, auto emergency kit, 4-in-1 emergency utility shut off tool, rain poncho, mess kit, emergency Mylar blanket, pet microchip gift certificate, metal whistle, or an ALERT FM receiver. Light sticks make great gifts for children. Most items can be bought in the camping section in sporting goods stores.



“Shelby Cares” Meet and Greet



Photo Caption: Left: Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director Dale Lane, Jane Waldrop, West Tennessee Emergency Management Agency Regional Director, and Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.
Right: Shelby Cares shelter cots awaiting flooding victims following the 2011 flooding

The quote from Matthew 25: 35-40, “...I was a stranger and you invited me in,” set the tone for the Shelby Cares meeting on November 18, 2014 at the Emergency Operations Center.

Faith-based partners, volunteers, emergency professionals, and state and county leaders gathered at 1075 Mullins Station Road to meet the new Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director, Dale Lane, and to reinforce their mission – to stand ready and waiting to shelter citizens during times of disaster.

Terry Donald, Shelby Cares Coordinator, welcomed the group, followed by the invocation by Pastor Mike Ellis from Impact Baptist Church. Jane Waldrop, West Tennessee Emergency Management Agency Regional Director, and Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. were in attendance.

Participating in the event were representatives from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency West, the Shelby County Mayor’s Office, Hope Presbyterian Church, the Shelby County Health Department, the Tennessee Department of Human Services, the Millington Fire Department, Memphis Area Transit Authority, Holmes Road Church of Christ, New Direction Christian Church, Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Bartlett Baptist Church, the Mid-South Chapter of the American Red Cross, Impact Baptist Church, Mount Zion Baptist Church / South Parkway East, Memphis Office of Emergency Management, Richland Acres Neighborhood Association, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lewis Help Today Foundation, Cummings Baptist Church, the United Way of The Mid-South, the Salvation Army, and Centenary United Methodist Church.

The program concluded with a moving benediction by Reverend Anthony Self of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church.

Shelby Cares, a non-profit 501(c) 3, was created by Shelby County Government in 2010 partnering with faith-based organizations focusing on the prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery for all citizens. Shelby Cares has proven its effectiveness by sheltering hundreds of citizens forced from their homes following the 2010 and 2011 major flooding in our county.

Any faith-based organization or individual is welcome to become a Shelby Cares partner. The requirements and guidelines are found on the Office of Preparedness website at www.staysafeshelby.us. To request more information or training, please contact Terry Donald at terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov or call 901.222.6700.

Civil Protest Leads to EOC Activation



Photo Captions: **Left:** Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director Dale Lane (right), speaks with Kim Koratsky, County Attorney, during a partial activation on November 25, 2014. Photo by Steve Shular.
Right: Demonstrations at Poplar and Highland

Protests were seen throughout the United States following the grand jury's decision to not indict a police officer from Ferguson, Missouri who shot and killed a teenager. Shelby County citizens were seen demonstrating at the corner of Poplar and Highland to express their concerns about race relations with police. Being proactive, Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, partially activated the Emergency Operations Center on November 25 to monitor the situation. Emergency Support Function representatives included emergency managers, law enforcement and fire department officials. Fortunately, the Shelby County citizens' demonstrations were peaceful and short-lived.

LEVEL 5: WINTER STORM/ EXTREME COLD



For the kids, tween, and teens....and those who are young at heart, you are challenged by the "Masters of Disaster" at Ready Kids to test your skills and knowledge about winter preparedness. The first level is "wildfires." For every level you pass, you are granted a new password to the next level. Level 5 is "Winter Storm / Extreme Cold." Visit <http://www.ready.gov/kids/games/data/dm-english/cold.html> to see what you know about cold weather! Good luck!

Citizens Academy Visits Office of Preparedness



Photo Caption: Shelby County Citizens Academy students visit the Shelby County Office of Preparedness

The eighth session of the Shelby County Citizen's Academy was held at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP), 1075 Mullins Station, on Thursday, December 4. Twenty civic-minded citizens were welcomed by Director Dale Lane and his staff to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

"What does the Shelby County Office of Preparedness do and what is an emergency operations center?" Director Lane asked the students. He explained that SCOP, a two-fold agency, Emergency Management and Homeland Security, is tasked with keeping our county prepared for all hazards and threats such as earthquakes, weather events (ice, flooding and tornadoes), and terrorism. "Disasters have little to no warning and we need to be ready for anything!" he said. He pointed out the EOC functions, a large room with computers, Mondo boards, and projection screens - the gathering place where Emergency Support Function representatives report to coordinate resources during a disaster. He told his audience about the numerous agencies that partner with SCOP: the 6-county Urban Area Security Initiative, who meet monthly working to mitigate disasters and share Homeland Security grant-funded equipment; the University of Memphis Geographical Information System; the Joint Terrorism Task Force; the National Weather Service; and the Area Maritime Security Committee - to name a few. He said SCOP's ongoing planning and training, using tabletop and full-scale exercises, is vital to test our preparedness plans. Director Lane introduced his dedicated staff who each gave a presentation in the EOC and then invited the students outside to demonstrate their Homeland Security equipment.

"Shelby Cares needs you!" said **Terry Donald**, Shelby Cares Coordinator, as he explained the purpose of the faith-based sheltering program - a partnership between Shelby County and churches. He said that Shelby Cares is ready to help shelter citizens from our region and Gulf Coast hurricane victims.



Photo Captions: Left: Director Dale Lane explains about the Urban Area Security Initiative. Right: Terry Donald, Shelby Cares Coordinator, invites citizens to become a "Shelby Cares partner"

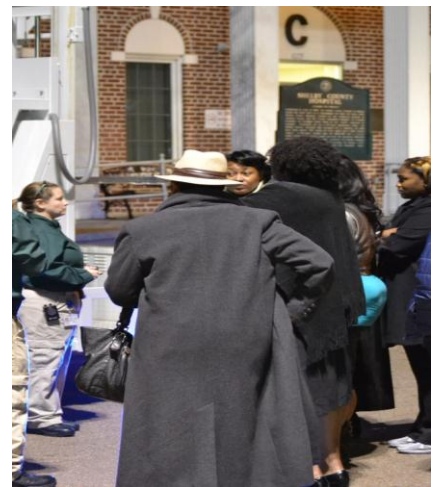


Photo Captions: **Left:** Levell Blanchard, Deputy Director, **Middle:** Kimberlyn Boulter, Senior Planning Officer, **Right:** Shannon Towery, Preparedness Officer, giving demonstrations during the Shelby County Citizen's Academy

Levell Blanchard, Deputy Director, invited the students to take the free Community Emergency Response Team training. "CERT is a team approach to teach you to survive a disaster," he said. He demonstrated an ALERT FM that receives messages from the Office of Preparedness and let the students know they would be receiving one at graduation. **Kimberly Boulter**, Senior Planning Officer, spoke about the importance of an "after action report" when the disaster is over and how it can improve the performance of all agencies. She also invited the students to get involved and volunteer with SCOP as a Reserve. **Shannon Towery**, Exercise / Training Officer, told the audience about the free ongoing training the agency offers such as SKYWARN, damage assessment, and hazardous materials response. She explained that SCOP participates in the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program on a regional, state, and national level to regularly to test emergency plans. Outside, Towery explained how the "Sky Cop" can be used during a disaster to give the agency a better view of the situation without putting humans in harms' way. **Mike Brazzell**, Preparedness Officer, demonstrated the imposing, solar-powered expandable mobile command light tower on wheels that lit the entire parking lot during the night time demonstrations. **Eugene Jones**, Preparedness Officer / CERT Coordinator, showed off the Hydratrek amphibious vehicle capable of traveling through rough terrain as well as water. **Captain Perry McEwen** told the students that Shelby County initiates realistic disaster exercises in order to learn how to work together as a team. He has been instrumental in making sure Homeland Security equipment is strategically placed throughout the county, especially in the schools, in case they are cut off during a disaster by downed trees or flooding. Captain McEwen gave the students a tour outside, of the Shelby County Bomb Unit Command Center and the robot.



Photo Captions: **Left:** Mike Brazzell, showed the solar-powered expandable light tower, **Middle:** Eugene Jones showed the Hydratrek amphibious vehicle, **Right:** Captain McEwen showed the capabilities of the robot and gave a tour of the Bomb Squad Mobile Command Center



It is estimated that 40 to 60% of all small businesses shut down and never reopen their doors after a major disaster. Physical damage, utility interruptions, and communication failures can lead to economic injury and may occur at any time. A businesses' ability to bounce back and reopen within days of an unexpected hardship is a good indication of their level of preparedness. The Small Business Administration's website, www.preparemybusiness.org, is a valuable resource tool to help get your business ready for any hazard or threat through pre-planning, education, and testing. The website instructs you how to develop a business continuity and resilience plan, how to compile lists of continuity resources, how to set up an internal and external emergency communications plan, and how to develop a crisis communication checklist. The website offers suggestions for social and media disaster planning. There are table top exercises, webinars, and PDF forms to help you analyze your businesses' readiness level. The SBA encourages businesses to "plan to recover" after the next disaster.



Winter Solstice, the first day of winter, is December 21, 2014. Are you ready? The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's forecasts: "wetter than average winter," "above average precipitation," and "a band of warmer than average temperatures." Significant weather events are formed by conditions not easily predictable beyond a few weeks. Snow and ice can cause major travel difficulties and power outages. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens to stay "winter ready" by following these steps:

1. **Check the forecast:** activate weather apps on your mobile device. Have a NOAA all-hazards radio with a battery back-up or ALERTFM with you at all times. Heed the watches and warnings!
2. **Create an emergency kit:** for home, work, and auto to sustain you and your pets for 7 days. Include food, water, medications, eye glasses, first-aid kit, hygiene supplies, tools, warm clothing, cell phone / charger, cash, infant supplies, special needs supplies, maps, keys, ID, and important papers.
3. **Vehicle readiness:** full gas tank, tune up, a disaster kit to include: blankets, tools, jumper cables, rock salt or kitty litter, shovel, red material for a distress flag, and a scraper.
4. **Stay off the road:** during ice and snow, unless it is an emergency.
5. **Dress for cold:** to avoid hypothermia / frostbite. Wear layers, and a hat, mittens, scarf, and boots.
6. **Weather ready your home:** have a secondary heat source, let indoor pipes drip and open cabinet doors, insulate exposed pipes, keep extra food and water on hand. Never use a generator indoors.
7. **Don't forget your pets!** Keep them inside during cold weather.
8. **Create a family communications plan:** know where to meet if separated. Share phone numbers.
9. **Be a buddy:** check on your neighbors during inclement weather.

For more information on winter preparedness, please visit www.weather.gov or www.weather.com.



FEMA | *Emergency
Management
Institute*

Office of Preparedness Attends EMI Course



Photo Caption: Right: Levell Blanchard attending the IEMC training December 8 – 12, 2014

Levell Blanchard, Deputy Director from the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, participated in the capability-based training, Community Specific Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC), held at the Emergency Management Institute at Emmitsburg, Maryland on December 8 – 12, 2014.

The exercise-based event focused on the integration of and coordination and communication among a policy group and the emergency operations center as related to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's mission.

It's goal was to improve the awareness and skills needed to execute plans, implement policies, and develop procedures to protect life and property in the event of an disaster. Emergency situations included potential natural, technological, and terrorist events. During the exercise participants learned how to clarify their roles and responsibilities and to improve team communication and coordination. The students listened to presentations, participated in exercises, gave their feedback, and then reviewed the results in an after action report. Local agencies participating in the training event included the Memphis Area Transit Authority, Shelby County Health Department, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, Memphis Zoo, Memphis Police Department, Memphis Office of Emergency Management, Memphis Housing and Community Development, Memphis Light, Gas and Water, First Tennessee Bank, Memphis Public Works, and Memphis Parks and Neighborhoods

Other southern communities who have participated in the IEMC training include Nashville, Tennessee, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Mississippi River at Memphis Dropping

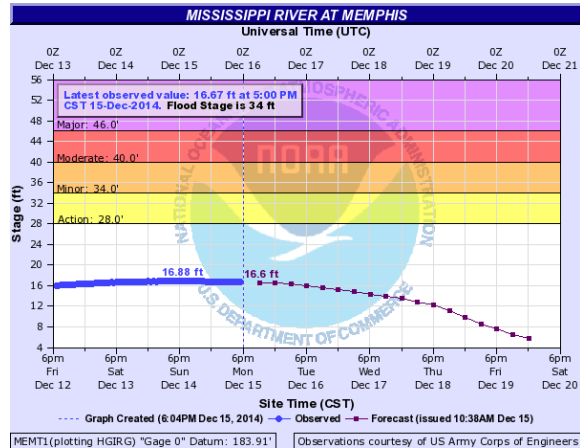


Photo Captions: Left: Riverboats pushing barges on the Mississippi River at Memphis December 13, 2014.
Right: NWS Flood Stage Graph

According to the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrological Prediction Service, the Mississippi River at Memphis rose to 16.67 feet on December 15 and will drop dramatically to 5 feet by December 20, 2014. Major floor stage is 46 feet.

Plan for Business Evacuation



Pre-planning for evacuation from businesses can save time, avoid duplication of efforts, lessen stress, and help your employees escape quickly with what they need to survive. Make a plan how to evacuate and practice the plan annually. Below is a check list of suggested easy-to-transport items to get ready.

- disaster kit
- cell phone and charger, pager
- laptop and charger
- ID, cash, wallet, credit cards, keys
- roster of employees and contact information (include their emergency contact information)
- server backup tapes or drives
- flash drives with critical information
- first aid supplies
- personal medications
- network cables
- list of passwords
- important documents

Assign specific employees to perform specific tasks in case of evacuation. For more information about business evacuation suggestions, please visit www.sba.gov.

Preparedness Training Opportunities



FREE Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is held on 2 consecutive Saturdays, **January 10 and 17, 2015, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.** Eugene Jones, Preparedness Officer, is the CERT Coordinator. Students must attend both Saturdays to receive a certificate. Modules include fire suppression, disaster psychology, light search and rescue, hazardous materials, disaster preparation, terrorism, and medical triage and first aid. Location: Shelby County Office of Preparedness, 1075 Mullins Station, Building C, Memphis, TN 38134. If under 18, students must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Pre-registration is required. Please email Sandra Mathias at mathiasl@bellsouth.net.

Ham Radio Training



FREE Ham radio Technician license class. Tuesdays, January 13 – February 24, 2015, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Germantown Fire Station 4, 3031 Forest Hill, Germantown, TN 38139. Manual \$25, FCC Test \$15.00. Contact Jelly Thompson @ 901.606.5067.

Visit www.staysafeshelby.u.s to register for these free training opportunities:

- Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) Damage Assessment Workshop, Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Texas A & M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX-MGT 310), Jurisdictional Treat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment, Monday, February 24, 8:00 a.m. – Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
- Communications Unit Leader (COML) Training, Tuesday, March 3, 8:30 a.m. - Thursday, March 3, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Preparedness Resources

ALERTFM: www.alertfm.com ReadyTN: www.tnema.gov FEMA: www.fema.gov



Shelby County Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us, 901.515.2525

Shelby County CERT: email Eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Storm Shelter Registry, Kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby Cares, email Terry.Donald@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Citizen Corp: citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County, TN: www.shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps: www.shelbycountymrc.org

ALERT FM: www.alertfm.com

Ready Shelby: www.readyshelby.us

AccuWeather: www.accuweather.com

American Heart Association: www.heart.org

American Radio Relay League: www.arrl.org

Center for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov

Center for Earthquake Research and Information: CERI www.ceri.memphis.edu

Department of Homeland Security: www.dhs.gov

Disability Preparedness: www.disability.gov/emergency-preparedness

Disaster Assistance: www.disasterassistance.gov, 1.800.621.FEMA / TTY 1.800.462.7585

Disaster Recovery Centers: text DRC plus zip code to 43362

Emergency Management Institute: www.training.fema.gov/EMI, 301.447.1000

Emergency 2.0: www.emergency202wiki.org

Federal Drug Administration: www.fda.gov

Federal Emergency Management Administration: www.fema.gov, 1.800.621.3362

- Citizen Corps: www.citizencorps.org

- Ready America: www.ready.gov
- Ready Business: www.ready.gov/business
- Ready Kids: www.ready.gov/kids
- FEMA Text messages: text PREPARE to 43362 (4FEMA).
- FEMA Independent Study Program , 301.447.1200

Google Maps: www.googlemaps.com

Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County: www.memphishumane.org

International Association of Emergency Planners: www.iaem.com

MapQuest: www.mapquest.com

Memphis Light, Gas and Water: www.mlqw.com, 901.544.6549, Outages: 901.544.6500

National Flood Insurance Program: www.floodsmart.gov

National Fire Protection Association: www.NFPA.org

National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov

National Safety Council: www.nsc.org

National Weather Service: www.weather.gov, National Weather Service in Memphis, 901.544.0399

Occupational Safety and Hazards Administration: www.osha.gov

Ready Tennessee: www.tn.gov/homelandsecurity/getready.shtml

Road Conditions: Tennessee:1.877.244.0065, Mississippi:1.888.728.4218, Arkansas:1.800.245.1672

Salvation Army: www.salvationarmyusa.org

Severe Weather: www.ready.gov/severe-weather

Shelters, text SHELTER and your zip code to 43362

Tennessee: www.tennessee.gov

Tennessee Department of Transportation: www.tdot.state.tn.us

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency: www.tnema.gov

United States Fire Administration: www.usfa.fema.gov

United States Geological Society: www.usgs.gov

Weather Channel: www.weather.com

Wunderground: www.wunderground.com

EMERGENCY: call 911